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A NEW SUBSPECIES OF IVORY-BILLED WOODHEWER
FROM MEXICO

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE AND KENNETH C. PARKES

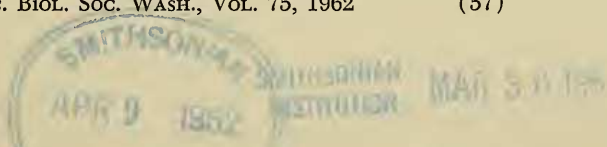
Smithsonian Institution and Carnegie Museum

The name *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster eburneirostris* (Des Murs) has been current for the Ivory-billed Woodhewers from southern Veracruz to northwestern Costa Rica since van Rossem (1939: 15) showed that the type specimen of *flavigaster*, the name previously used for the Central American race, was an example of the Guerrero-Oaxaca population named *megarhynchus* by Nelson (1900: 265). Examination of the series of "*eburneirostris*" in our two museums indicates that two well-defined subspecies exist within the area currently covered by this designation. The type locality of *eburneirostris* Des Murs 1847 is Realejo, Nicaragua, which therefore leaves the distinctive population from the northern region of this composite range to be named. Any bird of this family commonly is known to local Spanish-speaking inhabitants as "sube palo," one that climbs up trees, or as "trepador," a climber, so a Latin equivalent seems an appropriate subspecific name, as follows:

Xiphorhynchus flavigaster ascensor, new subspecies

Type: Carnegie Museum No. 136,043, adult ♂, Coyame (7 air miles east of Catemaco), 1,900 feet elevation, Veracruz, México, in rain forest, collected 10 July 1954, by Ernest P. Edwards (original No. 1792).

Characters: Dorsally, darkest of the races of *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*, particularly with respect to the deep chestnut of wings and tail; all dorsal browns richer and darker than those of the adjacent race *eburneirostris*, approached but not equaled in this respect by *ultimus* of the Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica; pale marks of crown narrower than in *eburneirostris* or *ultimus*, giving a streaked rather than spotted appearance; pale streaks of back longer, broader, and more widely margined with black than in either *ultimus* or *eburneirostris*, which differ little or not all from one another in this respect (in spite of the mention of "narrower and more restricted" streaks in the original description of



ultimus by Bangs and Griscom, 1932: 48); shape of these dorsal marks similar to those of *saltuarius* of northeastern México, but with wider black edges; buff ground color of underparts slightly paler than in *ultimus*, about as in *eburneirostris*, but broad, distinct streaks extending farther caudad, and more heavily outlined in black. In size *ascensor* is smaller than the five specimens seen of *ultimus*.

Measurements: Males (15 specimens), wing (chord) 106.0–116.0 (111.7), tail 91.0–102.0 (95.7), culmen from base 37.5–41.6 (39.7), tarsus 22.4–24.5 (23.4) mm. Females (15 specimens), wing (chord) 97.0–108.0 (103.3), tail 82.0–92.5 (86.1), culmen from base 38.2–42.0 (39.8, average of 14), tarsus 21.0–25.5 (22.3) mm.

Range: Southern México from near Vera Cruz City to Tabasco, ranging west on the Gulf slope into Oaxaca: probably extends through northern Chiapas into Petén, as two skins in the U. S. National Museum from Remate and Flores agree with specimens from southern Veracruz: Intergrades with *saltuarius* in west-central Veracruz; probably intergrades with *eburneirostris* in Oaxaca and Chiapas.

Remarks: The new subspecies does not require direct comparison with *tardus* Bangs and Peters of southern Sonora and northern Sinaloa, *mentalis* (Lawrence) of the Pacific slope from southern Sinaloa to Michoacán, or *flavigaster* Swainson of Guerrero and western Oaxaca, since all of these are pale races. Griscom (in Miller et al., 1957: 49) remarked that *saltuarius* Wetmore of northeastern México “requires comparison with *yucatanensis* Ridgway,” but these two races are clearly distinct, as well as geographically separated. The dorsal streaks of *saltuarius* are decidedly broader than those of *yucatanensis*, and the buff of throat and upper foreneck also is richer in the northern race. In addition, *yucatanensis* is colder, grayer in color on the posterior underparts.

Peters (1951: 45) included British Honduras within the range of *X. f. eburneirostris*. An excellent series from that country in Carnegie Museum shows that this population, as might be expected on geographic grounds, is intermediate between *eburneirostris* and *yucatanensis*.

The subspecies *X. f. ultimus* is an excellent one, but in typical form has a restricted range, being known only from the lowlands of the Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica. The few birds that we have seen from the higher elevations and foothills of the northern border of Guanacaste Province, Costa Rica, are large like *ultimus*, but as a series are closer to *eburneirostris* in color.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

X. f. mentalis: SINALOA: Culicán, 1; near Mazatlán, 13; Plomosas, 2; Escuinapa, 1. DURANGO: Chacala, 3. NAYARIT: Santiago, 1; San Diego, 1 (U.S.N.M.); Río Quimeche, 4 (C.M.). JALISCO: Las Palmas, 3; San Sebastián, 3. COLIMA: Manzanillo, 7. MICHOACÁN: Cayaco, 1 (U.S.N.M.).

X. f. flavigaster: JALISCO: Barranca Ibarra, 1. GUERRERO: El Naranjo, 1; La Unión, 1; Zihuantenejo, 1; Papayo, 1; Acahuizotla, 1; Tres Palos, 1. OAXACA: Puerto Ángel, 2; Tapana, 1 (U.S.N.M.).

X. f. saltuarius: TAMAULIPAS: Gómez Farías, 3 (C.M.); Alta Mira, 12 (U.S.N.M.). SAN LUIS POTOSÍ: Palitla, 2 (C.M.); Valles, 3 (C.M., U.S.N.M.). VERACRUZ: Rivera, 1; Mirador, 1; Orizaba, 2; Córdoba, 1; Motzorongo, 2. PUEBLA: Metlatoyuca, 5 (U.S.N.M.).

X. f. ascensor: VERACRUZ: Carrizal, 2; Buena Vista, 1; Paso Nuevo, 1; Tres Zapotes, 15; Cerro Tuxtla, 3; Santa Lucrecia, 1 (U.S.N.M.); Coyame, 5 (C.M.). OAXACA: Guichicovi, 1; Santo Domingo, 2. TABASCO: La Venta, 10; Teapa, 3; Frontera, 1 (U.S.N.M.).

X. f. yucatanensis: CAMPECHE: Matamoros, 1; Pacaitún, 1 (C.M.); Apazote, 1; Yohaltún, 1; Canasayab, 1 (U.S.N.M.). YUCATÁN: Mérida, 1 (U.S.N.M.); Chichén Itzá, 3 (U.S.N.M.), 1 (C.M.); Temax, 1 (U.S.N.M.). QUINTANA ROO: La Vega, 6; Puerto Morelos, 2 (U.S.N.M.).

X. f. yucatanensis × *eburneiostris*: BRITISH HONDURAS: Various localities, 30 (C.M.).

X. f. eburneiostris: OAXACA: Santa Efigenia, 4. GUATEMALA: Telemán, 1; Sabana Grande, 1 (U.S.N.M.). HONDURAS: Lago de Yohoa, 5; La Ceiba, 6 (C.M.), 3 (U.S.N.M.); Trujillo, 4 (C.M., U.S.N.M.); Planes, 3; San Esteban, 1 (C.M.); Santa Ana, 1 (U.S.N.M.). EL SALVADOR: Acajutla, 1; La Libertad, 1 (U.S.N.M.). NICARAGUA: San Juan del Sur, 1; Sucuyá, 2; Managua, 1 (U.S.N.M.).

X. f. eburneiostris × *ultimus*: COSTA RICA: Cerro Santa María (C.M.); Volcán Rincón de la Vieja, 1 (U.S.N.M.); 15 mi N of Liberia, 2 (U.C.L.A.); Miravalles, 1 (A.M.N.H.).

X. f. ultimus: COSTA RICA: NICOYA: Tambor, 5 (L.A.Co.M.); Ojo Ancho, 2; Paquera, 1 (M.C.Z.).

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